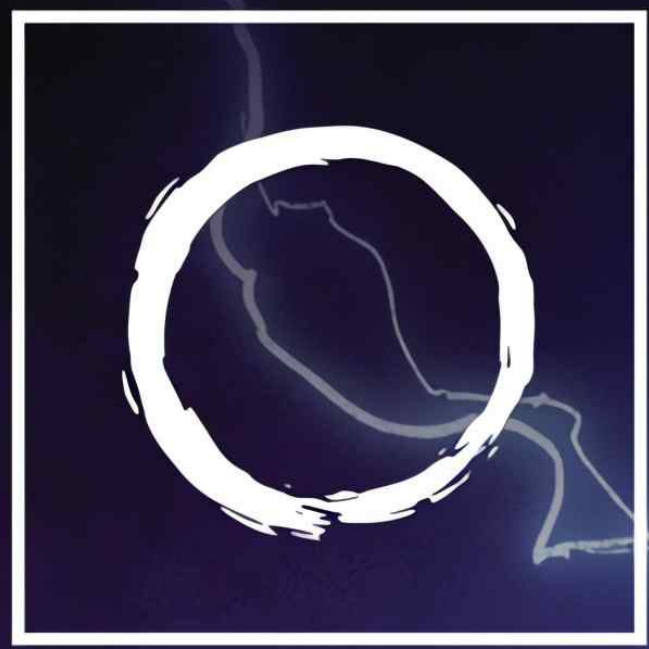




ONCE UPON A TIME AT THE END OF THE WORLD™

JASON AARON

LEILA DEL DUCA

TAMRA BONVILLAIN



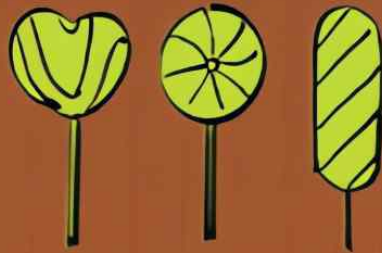
#7

BOOM!
STUDIOS



BOOK TWO

THE RISE AND FALL OF GOLGONOOZA



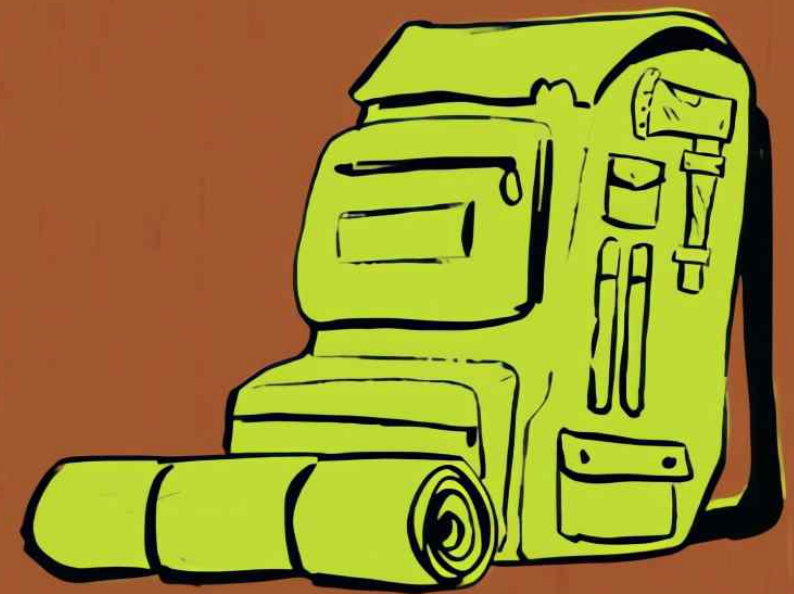
CHAPTER TWO

CITY OF MANY LOVES

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"EVERY SINGLE DAY... WAS **MISERY**."

"I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW I KEPT GOING...FOR SO MANY YEARS...ALL ALONE."

"**FEAR** IS A POWERFUL MOTIVATOR, I SUPPOSE."

"FOR ME, IT WAS THE FEAR OF SOMEONE **FINDING** ME IF I STOPPED."

"THOSE FEW TIMES WHEN SLEEP WOULD COME OVER ME LIKE A **FEVER**...I'D DREAM OF **OTHER PEOPLE**, SURROUNDING ME..."

"...AND I'D WAKE IN A PANIC, SOMETIMES ALREADY ON MY FEET, UP AND TRUDGING ON."

"THOUGH IT WASN'T FEAR ALONE THAT KEPT ME GOING."

"THERE WAS A PROFOUND CERTAINTY I'D COME TO ACCEPT...THAT I WAS **MEANT** TO SUFFER."

"THAT I WAS BROKEN BEYOND REPAIR AND LIKE ALL LOST AND BROKEN SPECKLES OF TRASH LEFT STREWN ACROSS THE WASTELAND..."

"...I **DESERVED** ALL THE MISERY THE WORLD COULD SEND HOWLING DOWN UPON ME."

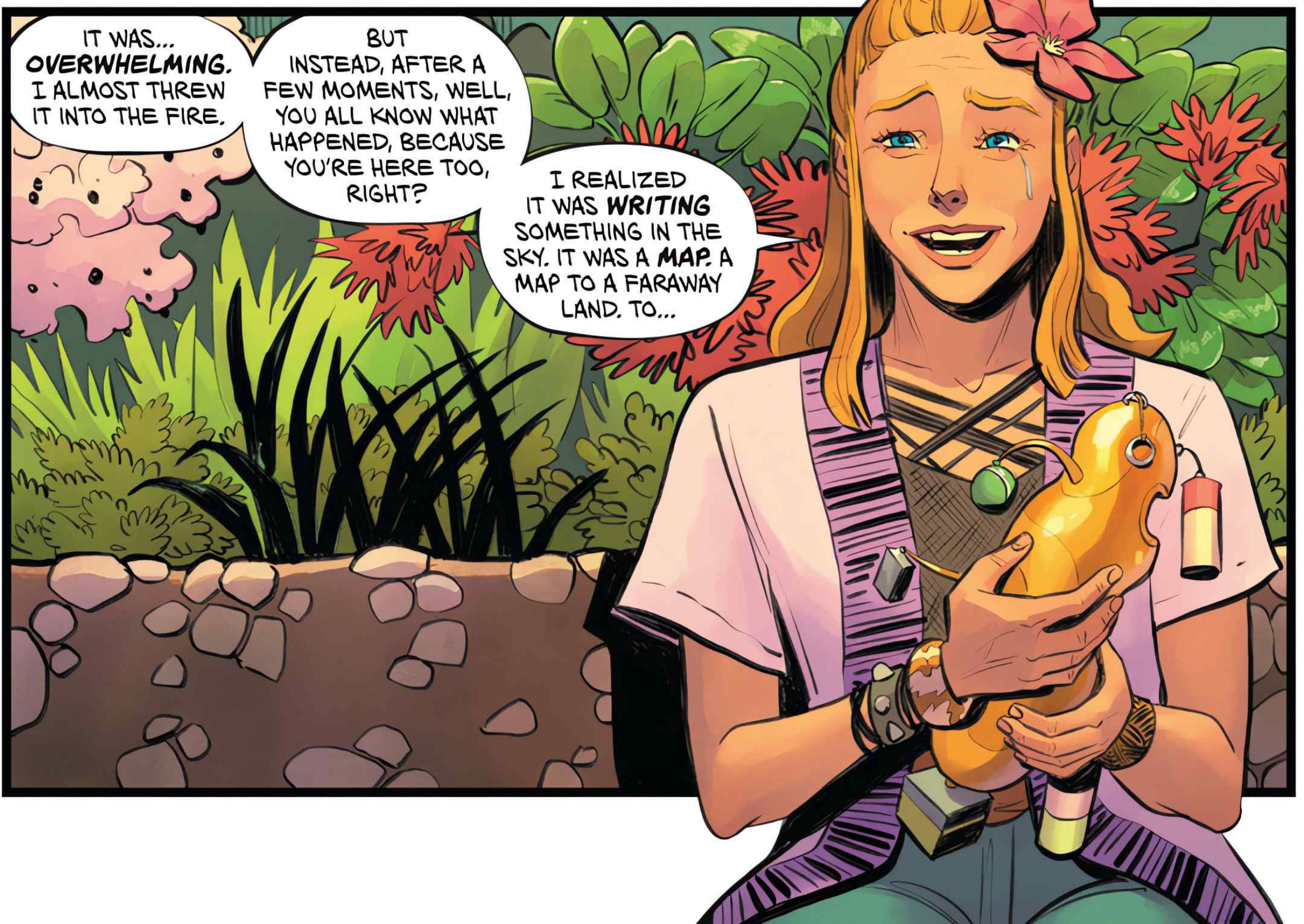
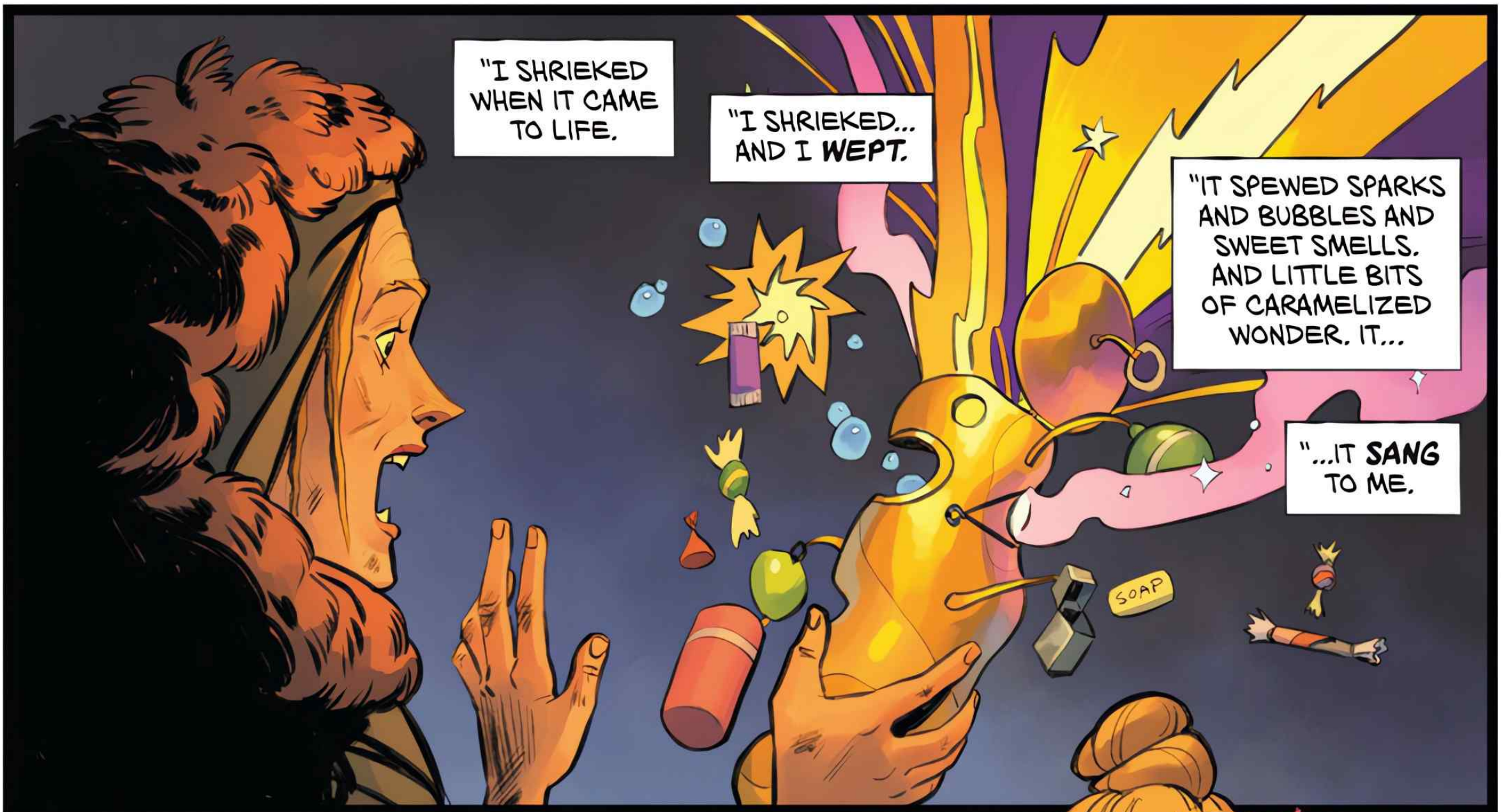
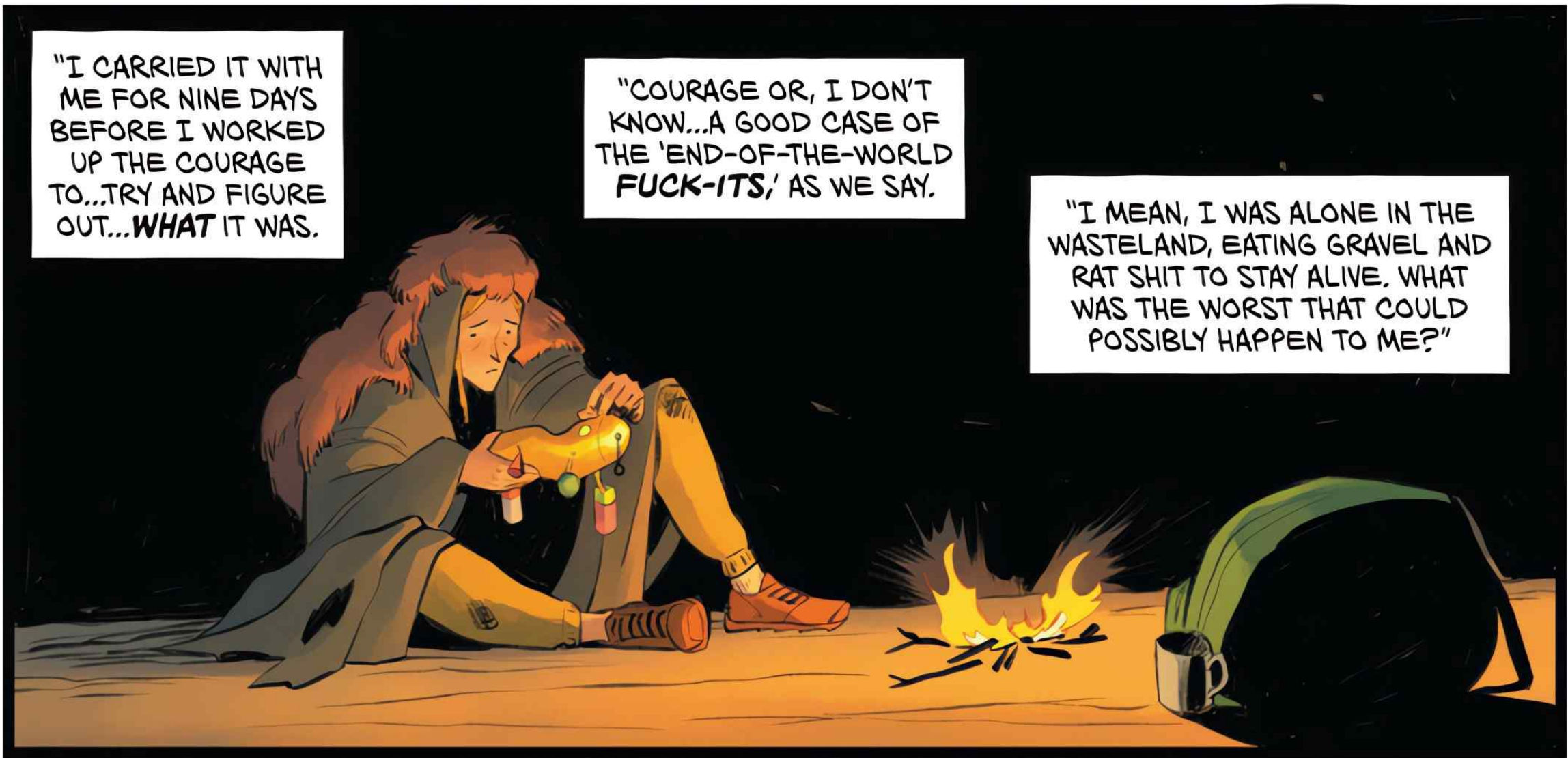
"SO...YOU CAN IMAGINE MY... MY **SHOCK**...WHEN I **FOUND** SOMETHING ONE NIGHT."

"HANGING FROM A TREE. PRACTICALLY GLOWING IN THE GLOOM."

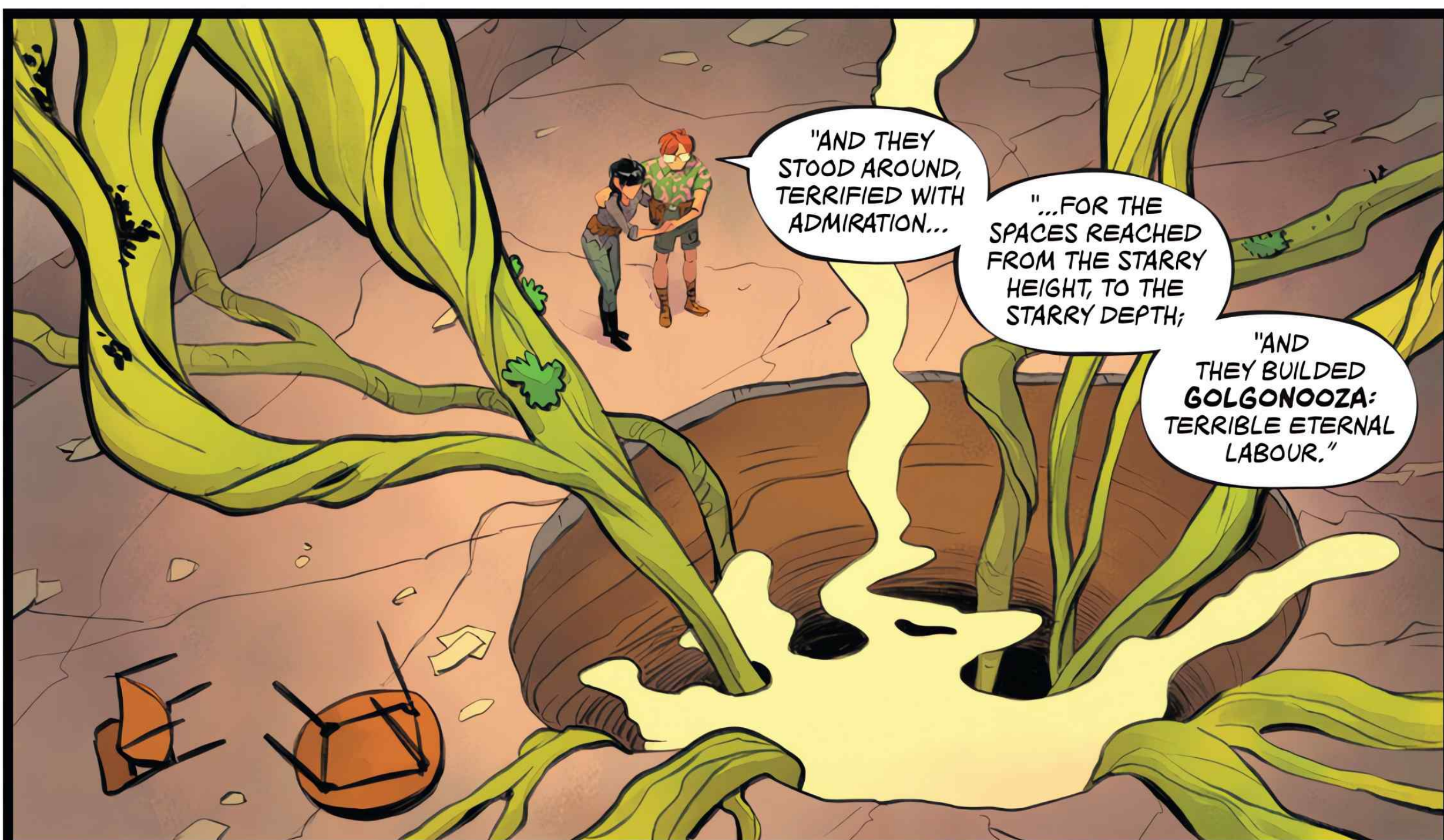
"I WAS INSTANTLY PETRIFIED. I WOULDN'T HAVE **DARED** TO TOUCH IT."

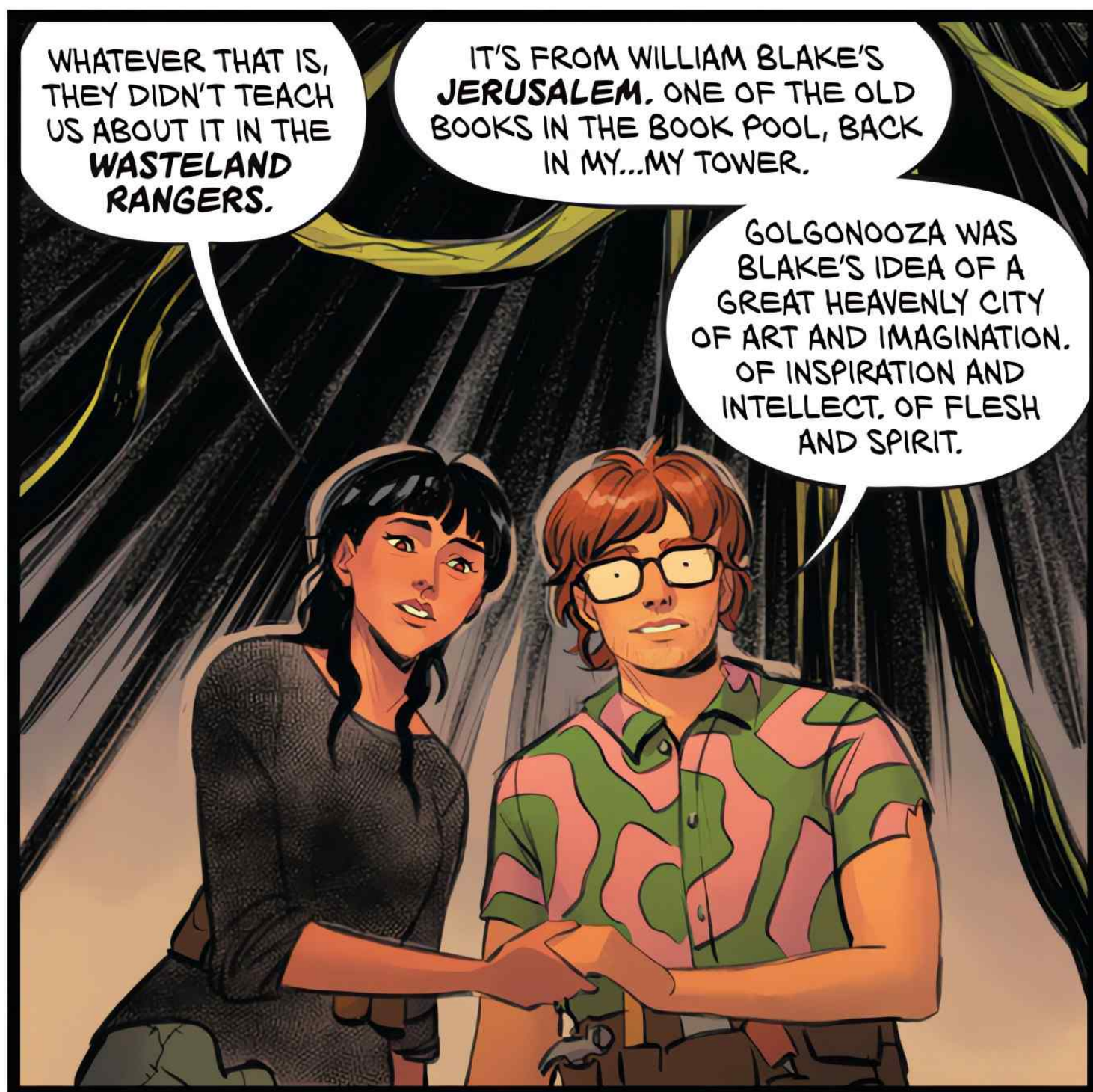
"UNTIL I SAW THE **SIGN**."

YOU DESERVE JOY.
USE ME.





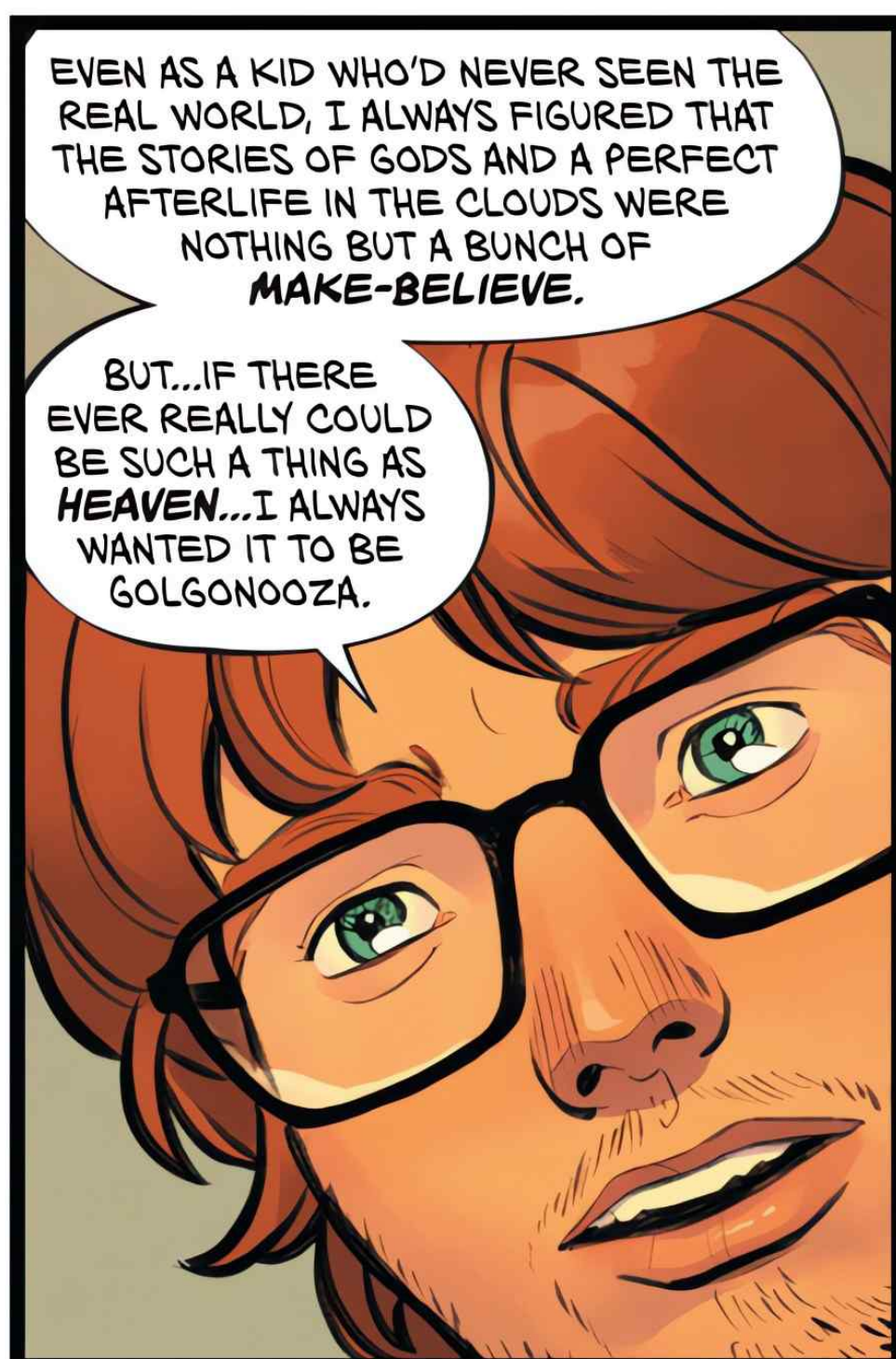




WHATEVER THAT IS, THEY DIDN'T TEACH US ABOUT IT IN THE **WASTELAND RANGERS**.

IT'S FROM WILLIAM BLAKE'S **JERUSALEM**. ONE OF THE OLD BOOKS IN THE BOOK POOL, BACK IN MY...MY TOWER.

GOLGONOOZA WAS BLAKE'S IDEA OF A GREAT HEAVENLY CITY OF ART AND IMAGINATION. OF INSPIRATION AND INTELLECT. OF FLESH AND SPIRIT.



EVEN AS A KID WHO'D NEVER SEEN THE REAL WORLD, I ALWAYS FIGURED THAT THE STORIES OF GODS AND A PERFECT AFTERLIFE IN THE CLOUDS WERE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF **MAKE-BELIEVE**.

BUT...IF THERE EVER REALLY COULD BE SUCH A THING AS **HEAVEN**...I ALWAYS WANTED IT TO BE GOLGONOOZA.



WE'LL **MAKE IT REAL**, MACEO. YOU AND ME.

OUR WORLD. BROUGHT TO LIFE. RIGHT HERE.



WE'LL NEED SOME KIND OF A **POWER SOURCE**.

I KNOW SOMEBODY WHO'S REALLY GREAT AT COMING UP WITH THOSE.

WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP THE PLACE SAFE AND HIDDEN. WHILE STILL LIVING THE WAY WE WALKED.

WHICH MEANS SOMEHOW LEAVING THE DOORS OPEN TO **NEW CONNECTIONS**.



SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR THE WORLD'S LAST WASTELAND RANGER.

THE RANGERS ONLY CARED ABOUT SURVIVAL. THIS PLACE...WILL BE ABOUT SO MUCH **MORE**.

MEZZY...WHAT IF WE CLOSE OUR EYES AND **IMAGINE** WE'RE THERE?



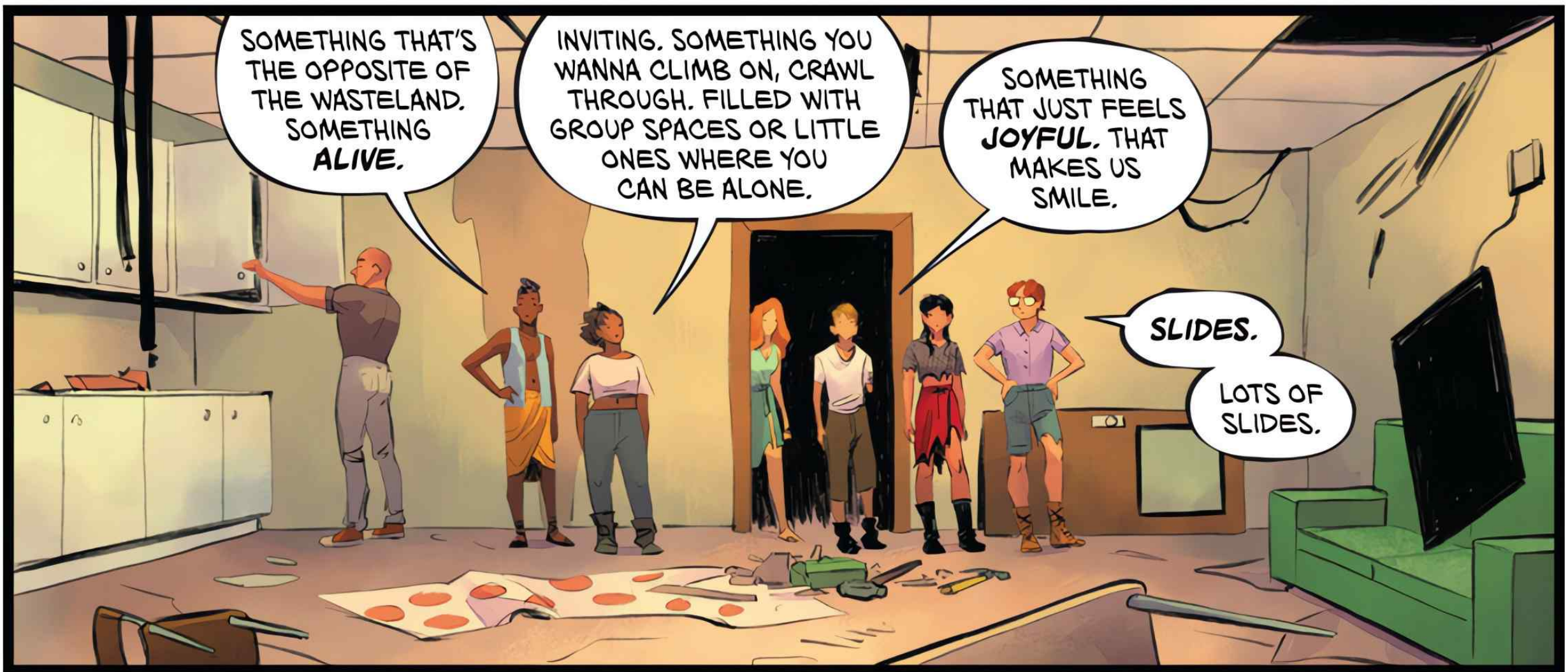
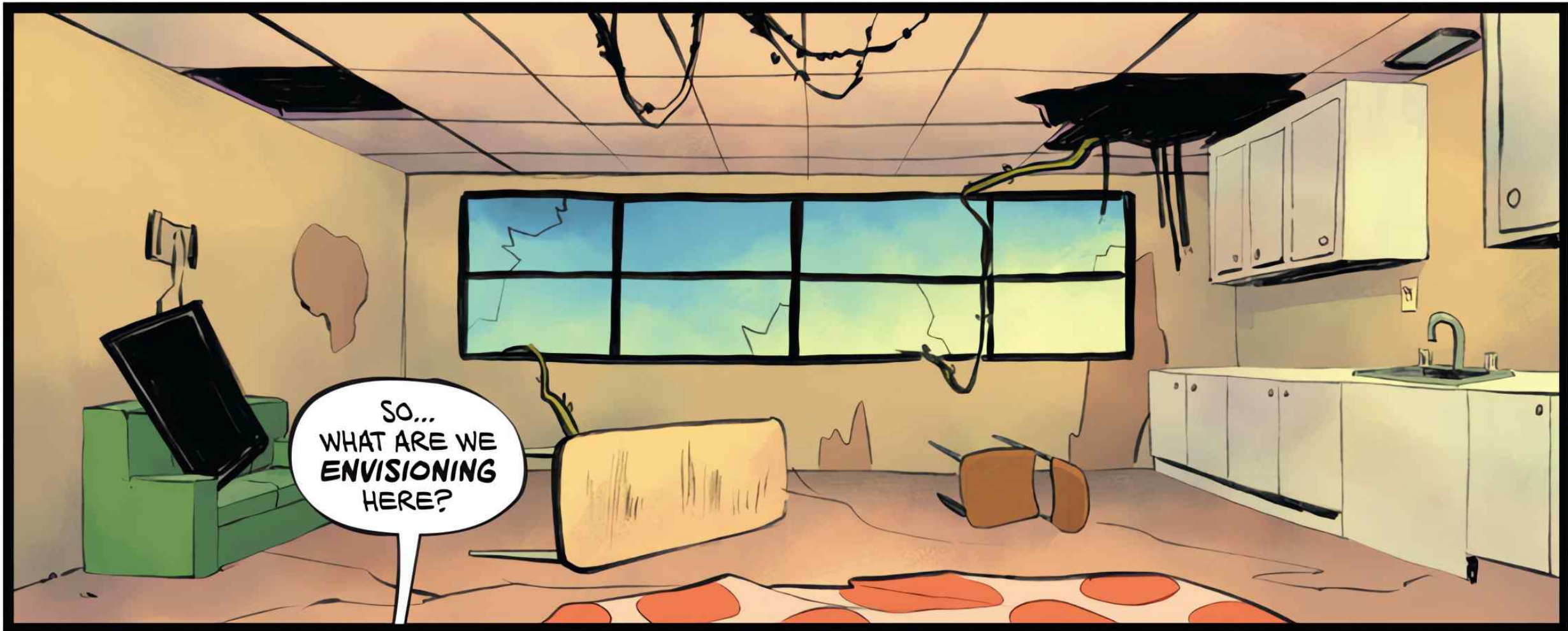
IMAGINE WE'RE TAKING EACH OTHER ON A TOUR OF GOLGONOOZA.

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO THE TOURS. BUT I'M THERE, **LOVER**.

THEN ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AROUND AND TELL EACH OTHER...

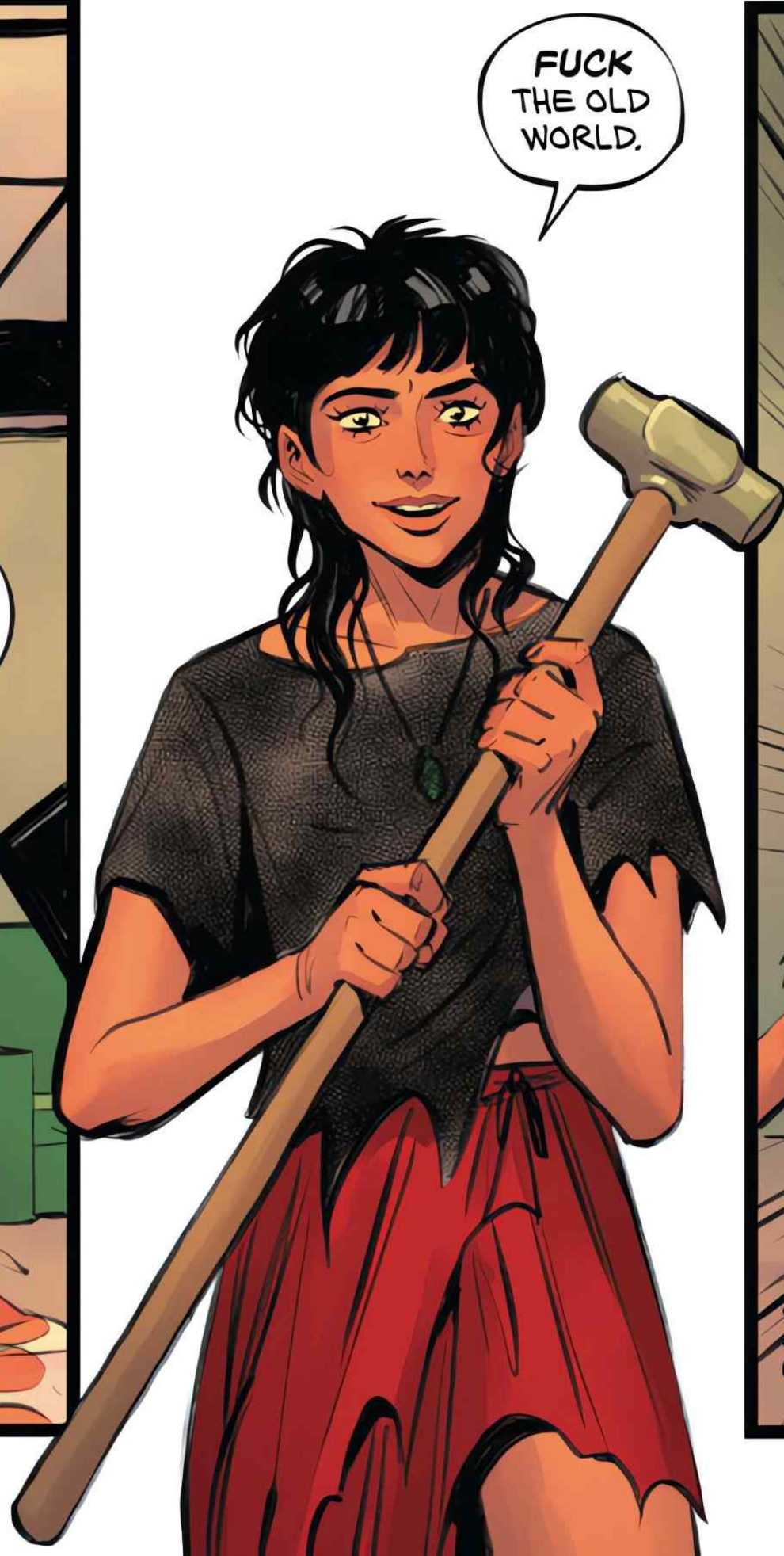
...WHAT DO WE **SEE**?

Day 1.
The Founding.



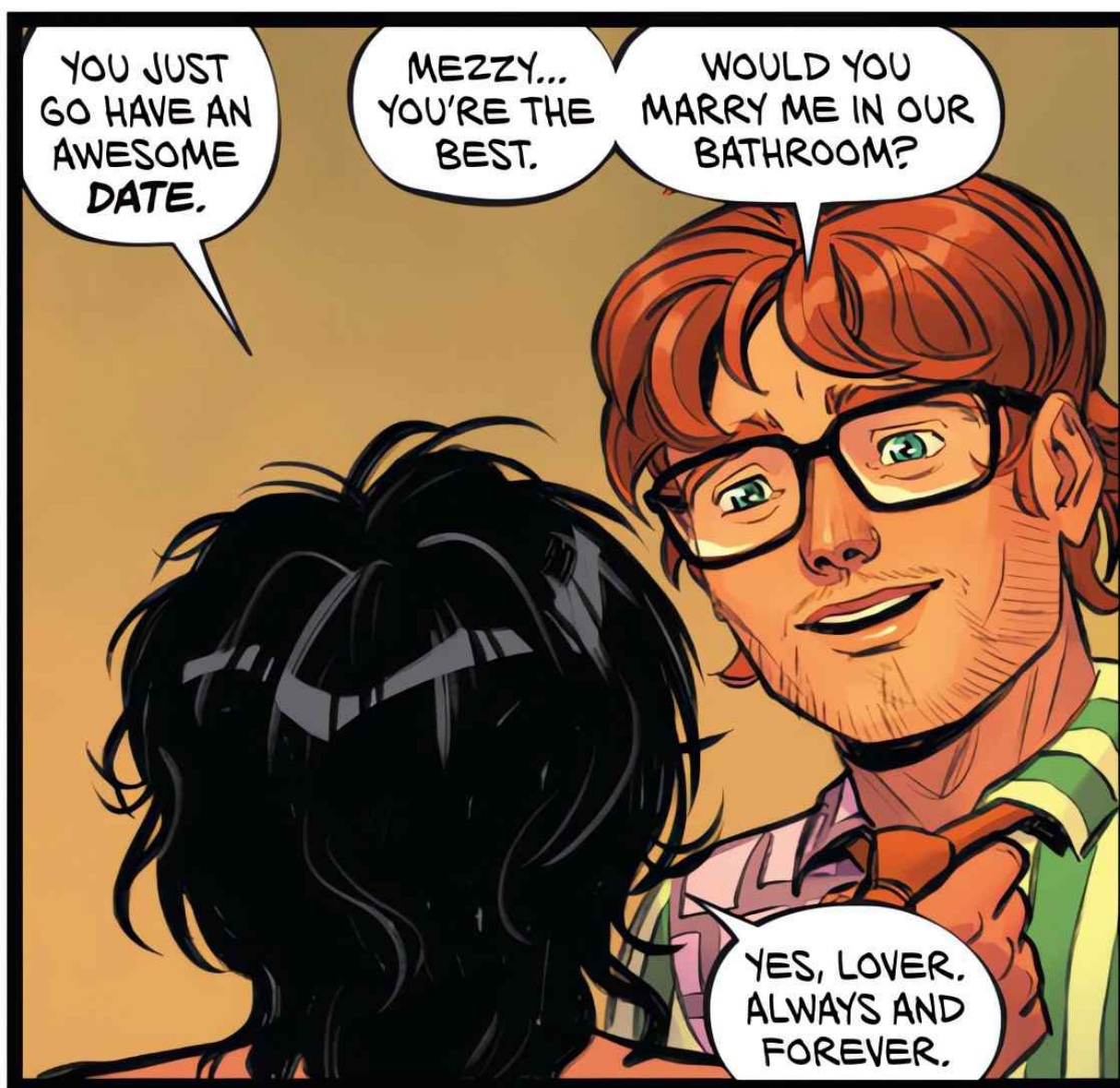
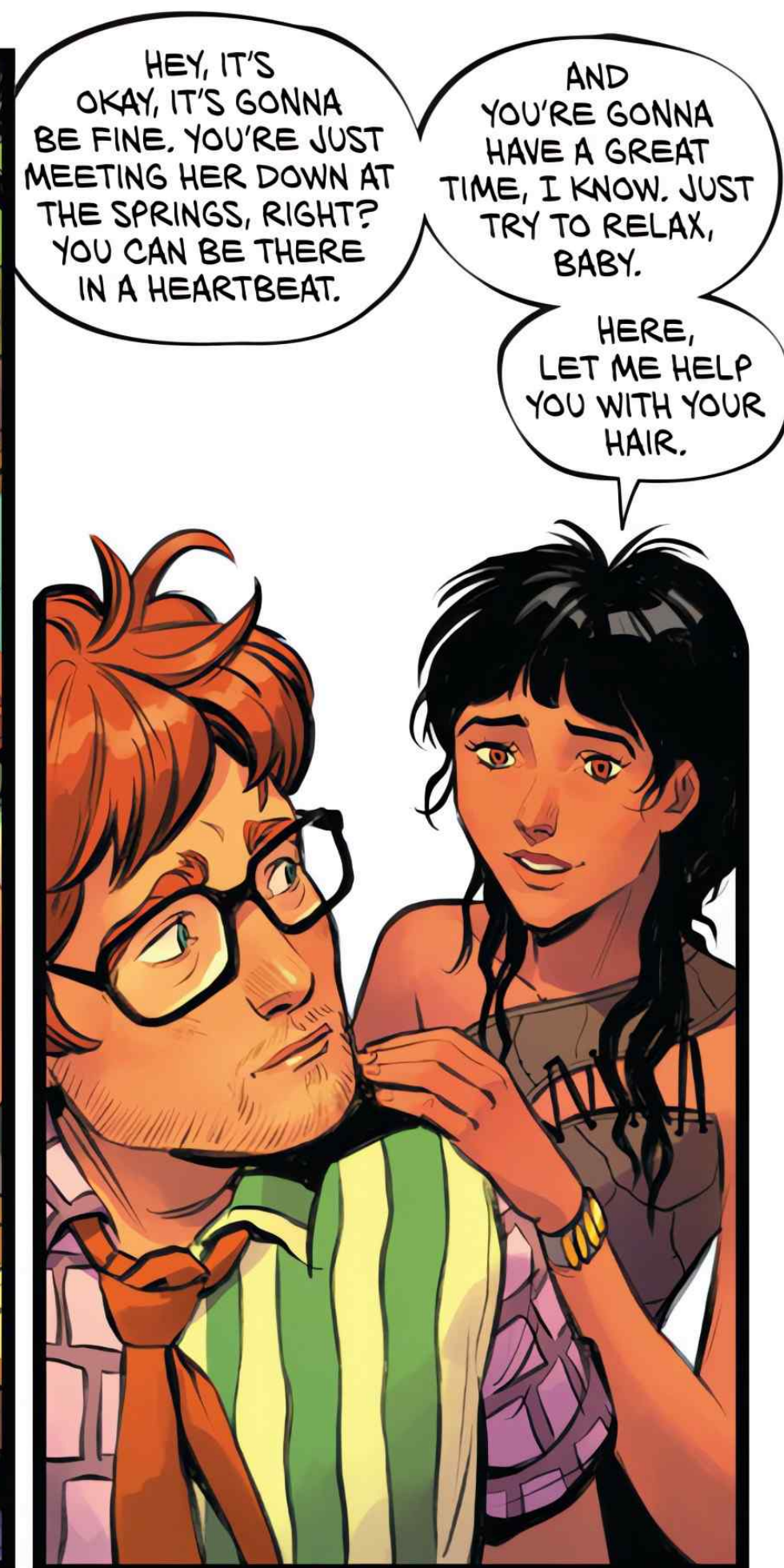
WE BUILD
SOMETHING
THAT'S NOT A
BOX. NOT A
CAGE.

THE OLD
WORLD WAS ALL
ABOUT THEIR
BOXES AND NEAT
ANGLES.















I KNOW, THERE'S
A LOT ABOUT THIS
PLACE THAT MAY TAKE
SOME GETTING
USED TO.

YOU'RE
NOT IN THE
WASTELAND
ANYMORE.

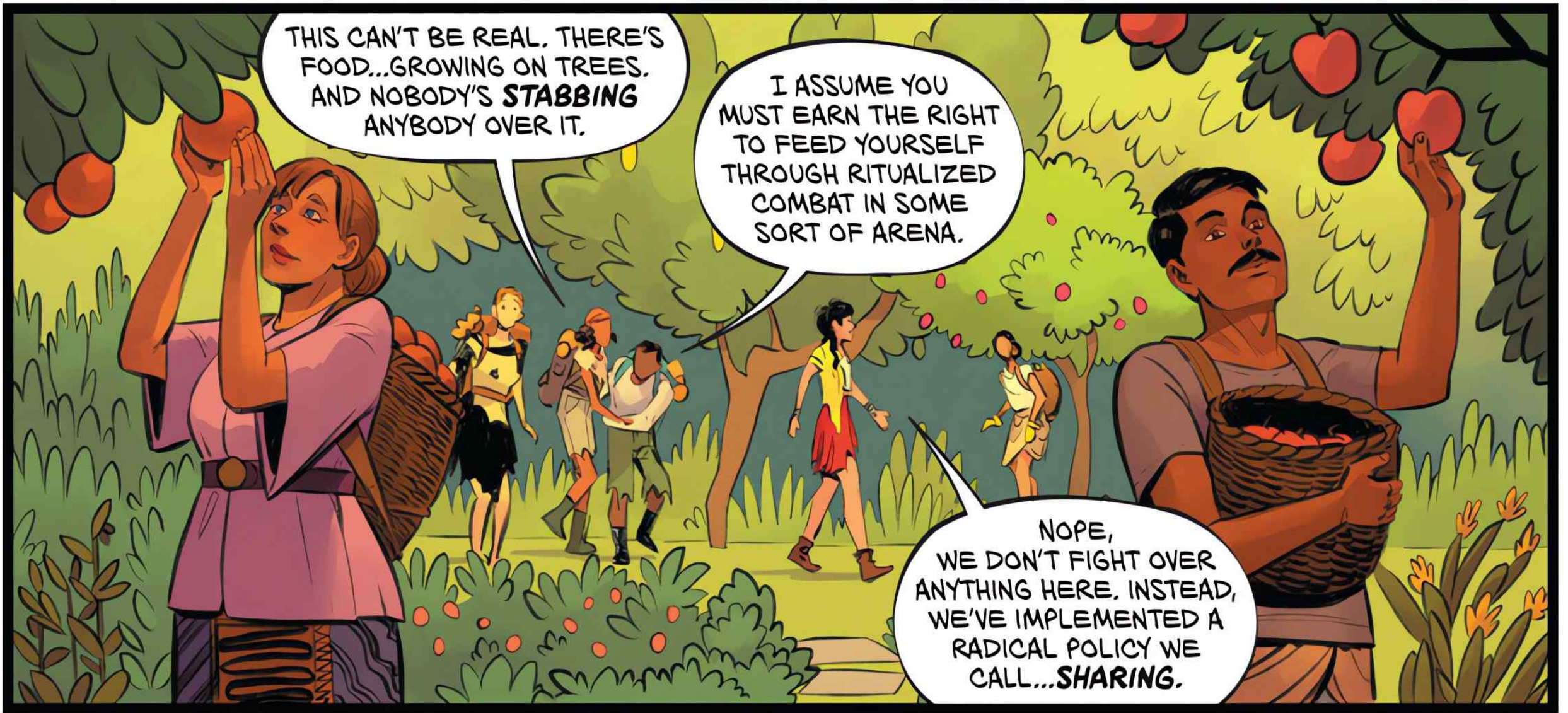
C'MON
IN, NEW
FRIENDS...

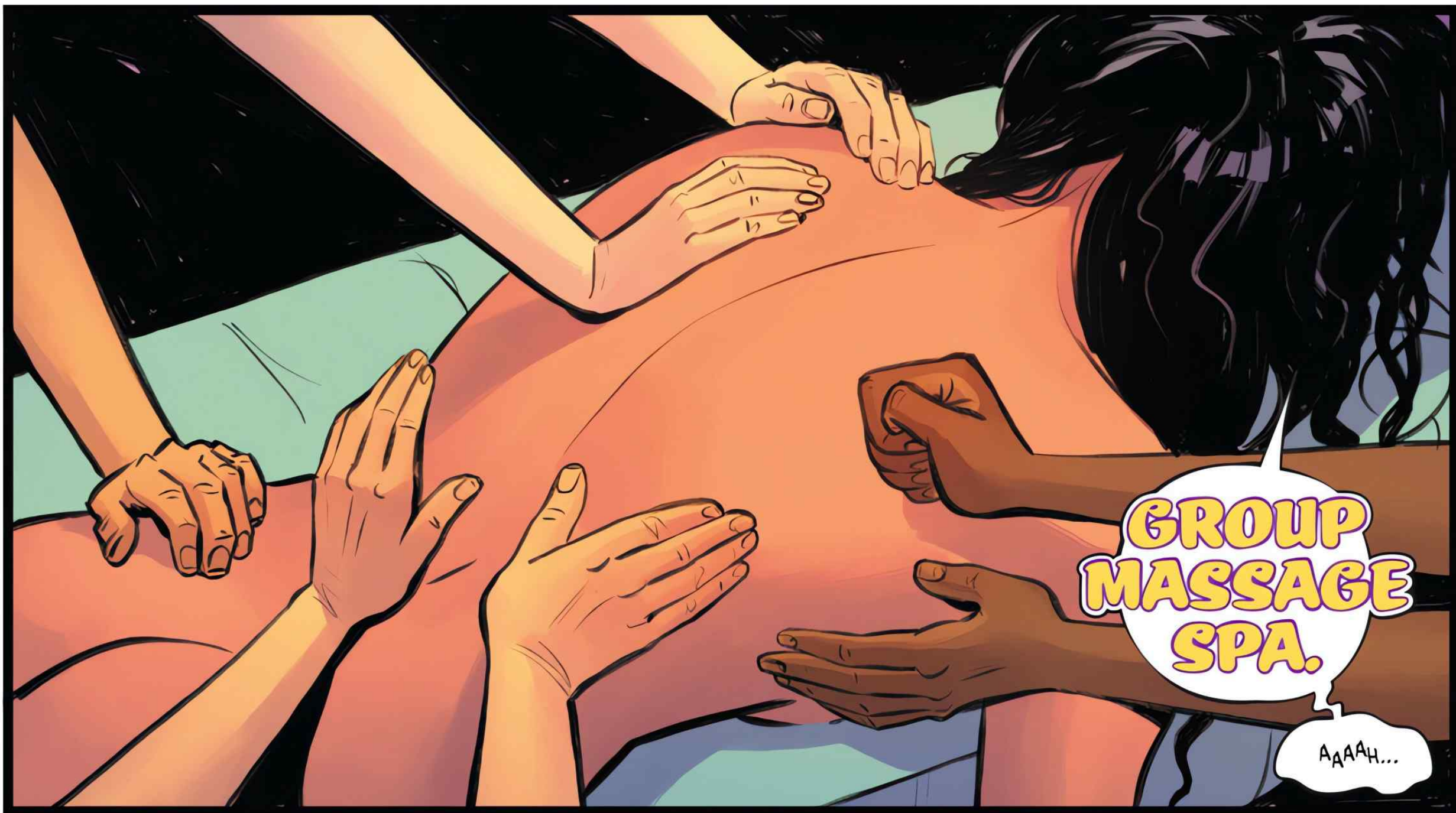
WELCOME TO
Golgonooza!



- FREE'DOM
- NUDE HOT SPRINGS
- DISCOVERY
- SLIDES
- CANDY VAULT
- GARDEN OF DELIGHTS
- MORE SLIDES
- SELF EXPRESSION

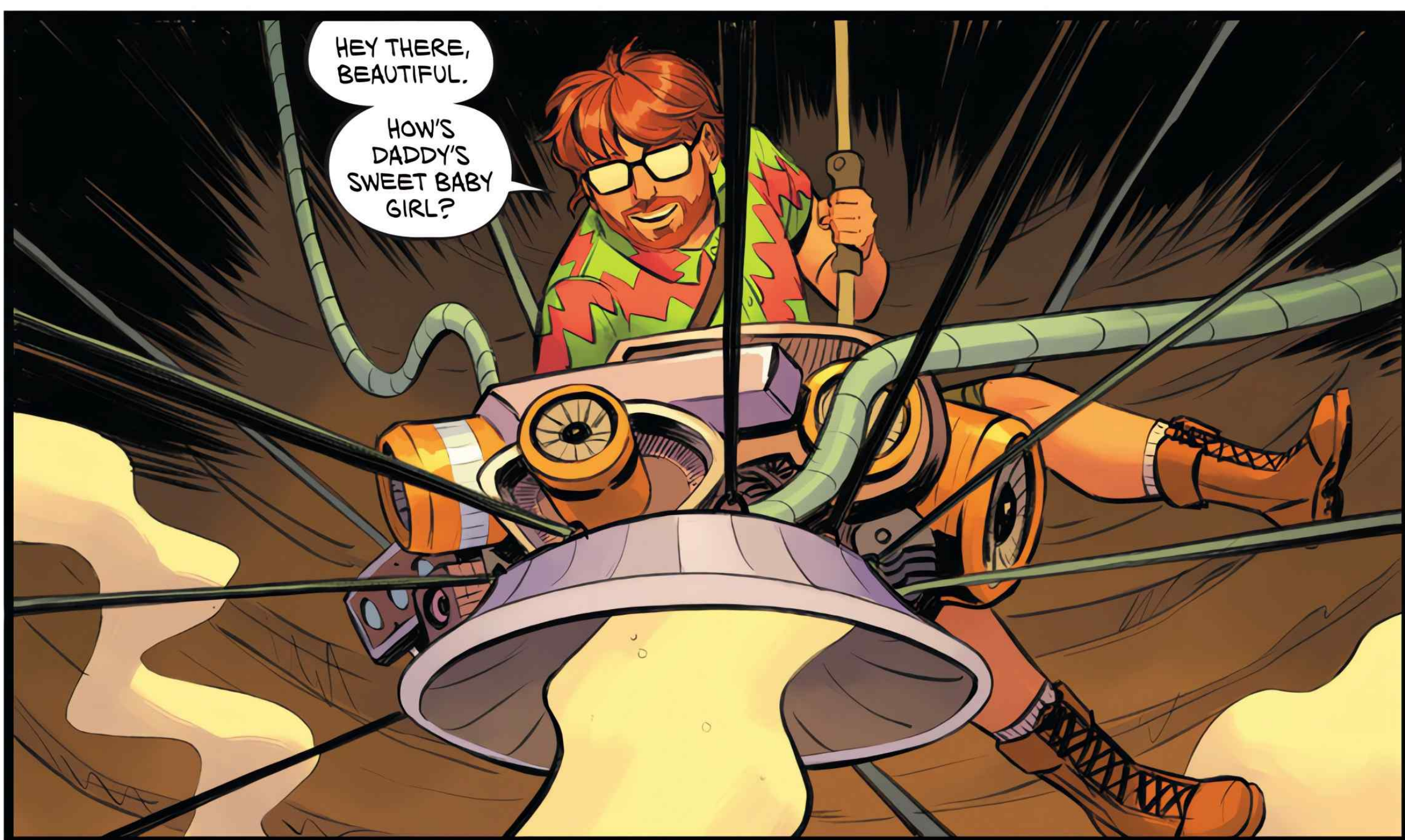
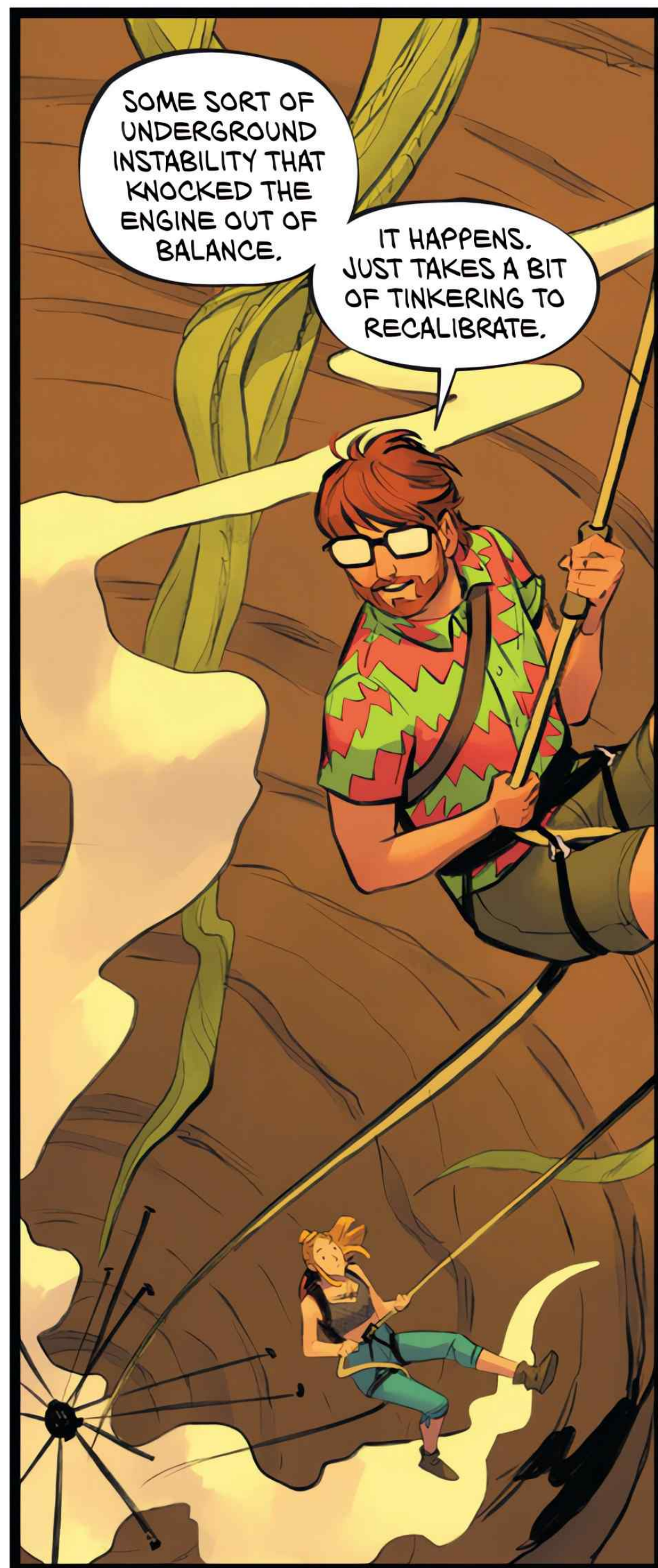
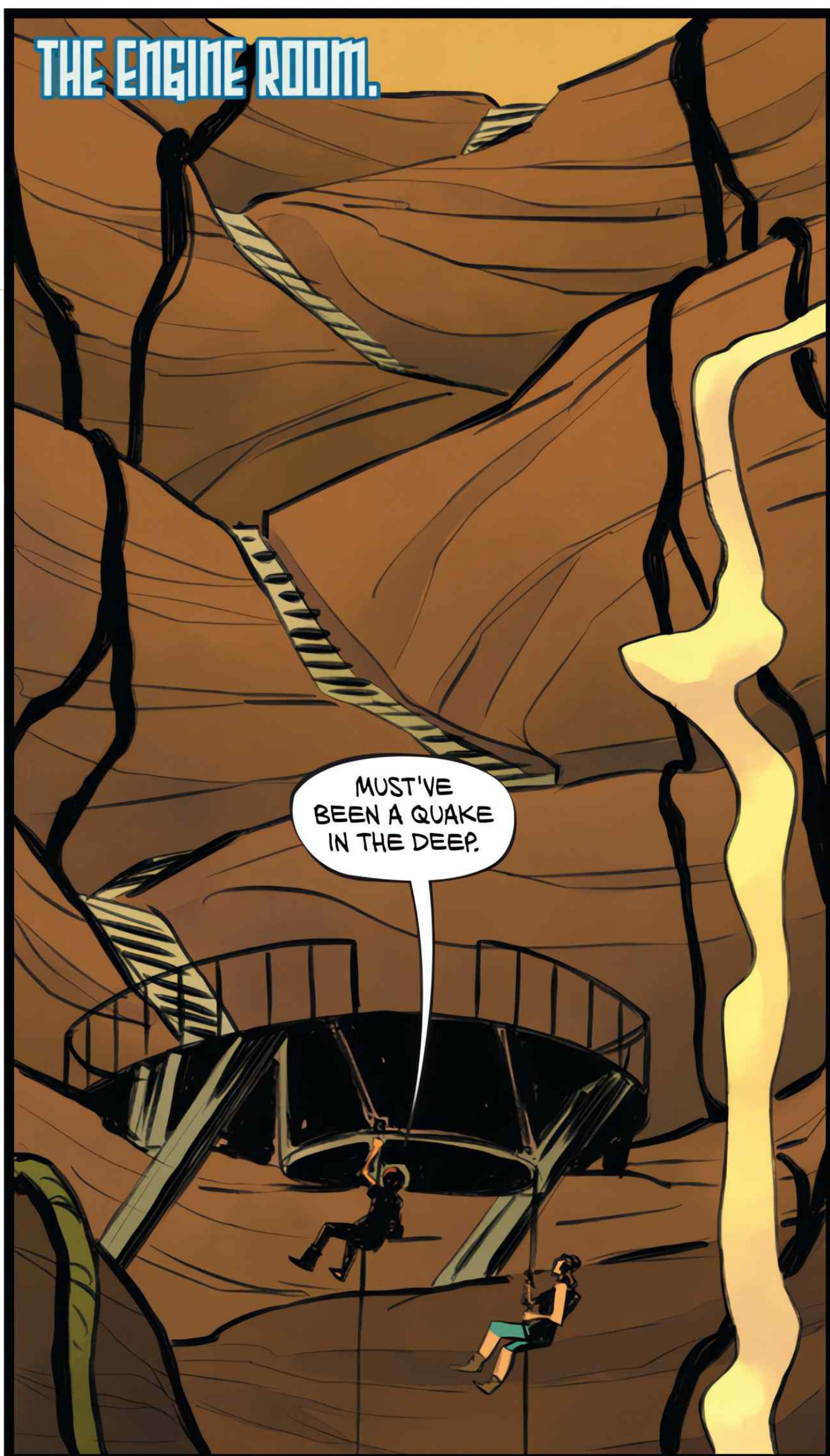
Day 1093.
The Zenith.

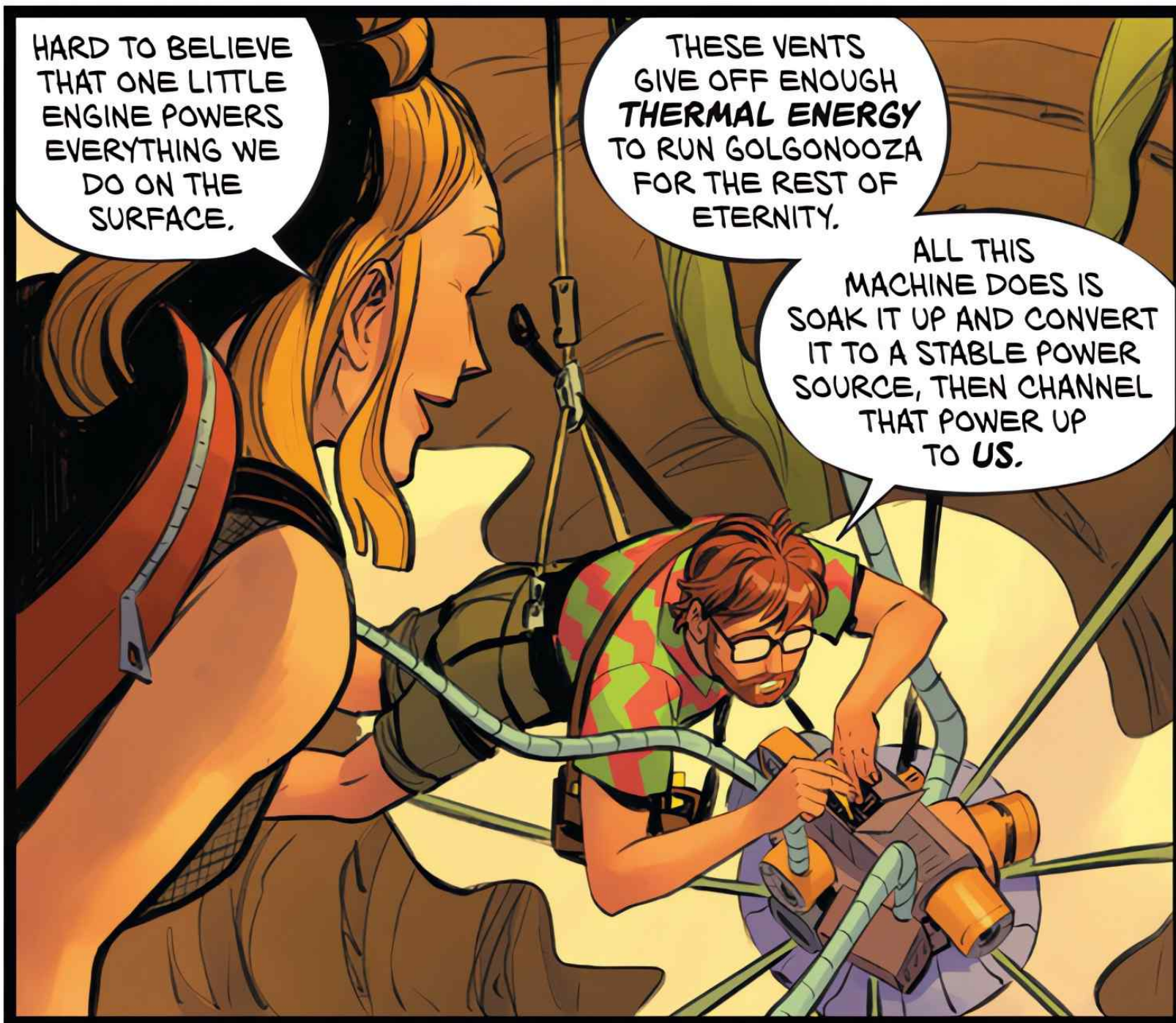






THE ENGINE ROOM.





HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ONE LITTLE ENGINE POWERS EVERYTHING WE DO ON THE SURFACE.

THESE VENTS GIVE OFF ENOUGH **THERMAL ENERGY** TO RUN GOLGONOOZA FOR THE REST OF ETERNITY.

ALL THIS MACHINE DOES IS SOAK IT UP AND CONVERT IT TO A STABLE POWER SOURCE, THEN CHANNEL THAT POWER UP TO **US**.



EVERYTHING WE HAVE COMES FROM DOWN HERE. THE FRESH SPRINGS, THE GREENERY.

IT'S LIKE THE PLANET IS GIVING BACK TO US, TRYING TO REGROW ITSELF. WE'RE JUST HERE TO PROTECT THAT FLOWERING.



SHOULD WE BE WORRIED ABOUT THE QUAKES?

CAN'T SAY I'VE EVER SEEN IT QUITE SO... **GASSY** DOWN THERE.



THE WHOLE WORLD IS UNSTABLE. ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP RIDING THE STORM.

DON'T GIVE UP ON US YET, OLD MOTHER.



NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, WENDI, I HAVEN'T KISSED MEZZY'S FACE SINCE SHE GOT BACK FROM THE WASTELAND.

UM, HELLO, ARE YOU... MACEO?



MEZZY SENT US DOWN HERE. SHE GOT CALLED AWAY FOR SOMETHING AND SAID YOU WOULD FINISH OUR TOUR.

NEW FRIENDS! HEY THERE, HI THERE! HOW EXCITING!

WELCOME TO GOLGONOOZA. DID MEZZY SHOW YOU THE **PILLOW FIGHT DOME** YET?



OKAY, YOU ALL LOOK A BIT **SHELL-SHOCKED**. I GET IT. THIS PLACE IS OVERWHELMING FOR ME AT TIMES TOO.

HEY, I SEE YOU BROUGHT YOUR **GOLDEN GADGETS**.



IS THAT...WHAT THEY'RE CALLED?

THAT'S WHAT WE CALL THEM HERE. BUT NONE OF US KNOW THAT WHEN WE FIND THEM HANGING IN THE WASTELAND, DO WE?

I NAMED MINE THE **CHUCKLER**. WHAT ABOUT Y'ALL?



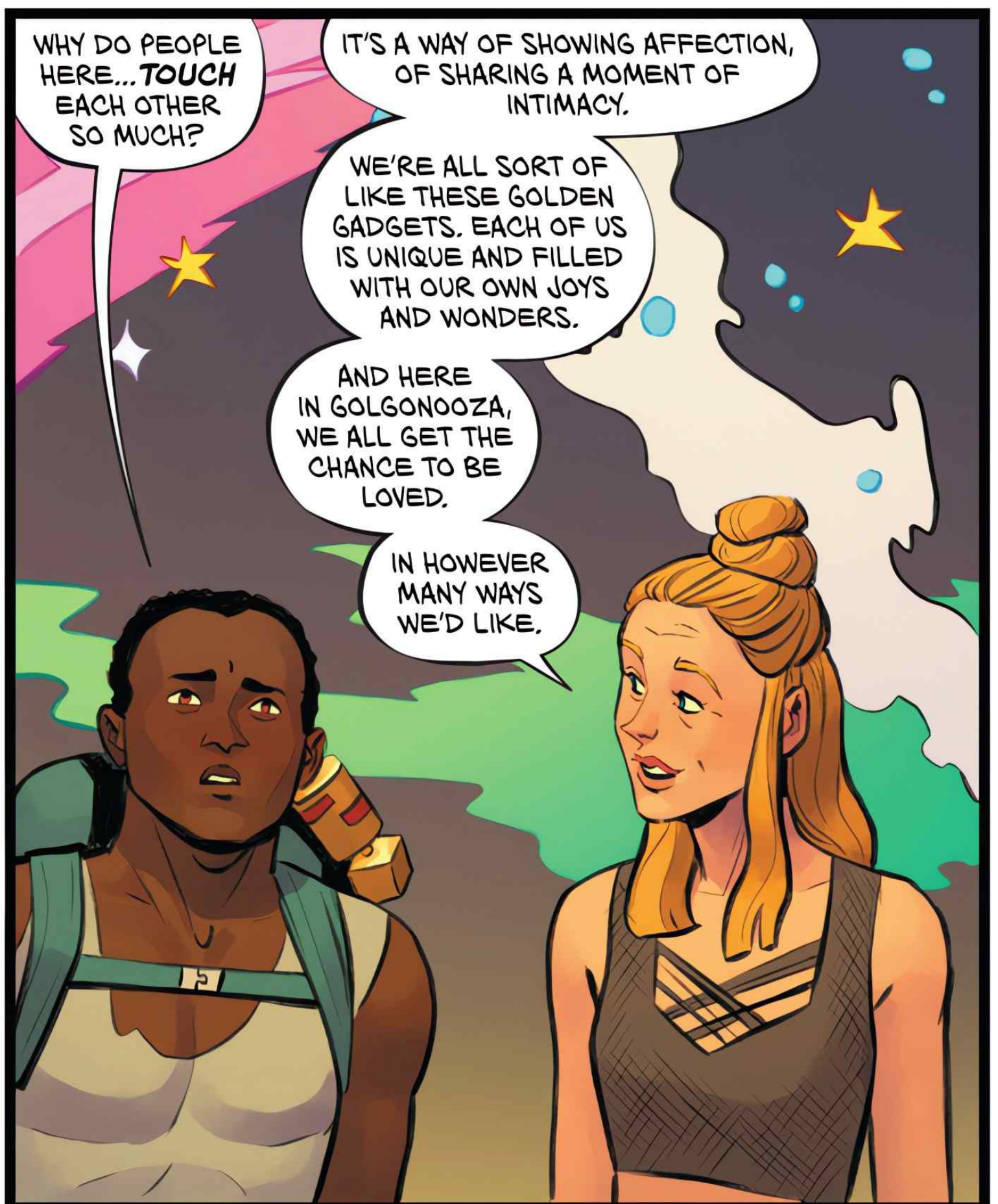
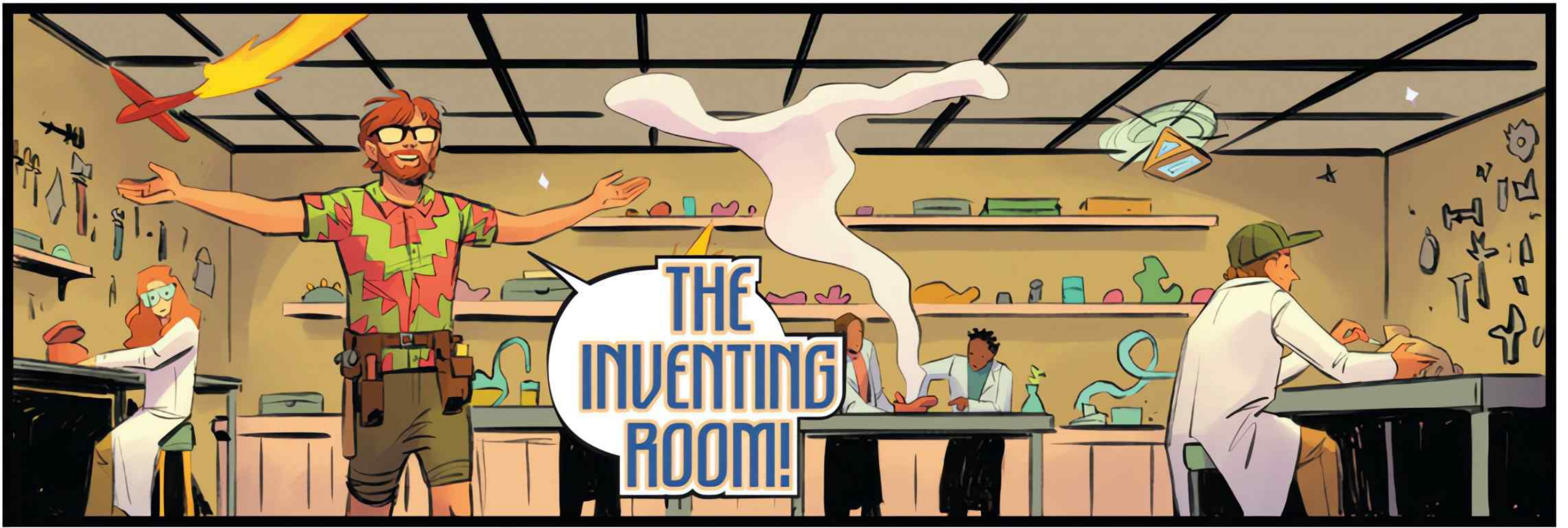
THE **JOY STICK**.

THE **GULLYWHUMPER**.

CHAD.

HA! THOSE ARE GREAT NAMES.

WOULD Y'ALL LIKE TO SEE WHERE YOUR LITTLE GOLDEN FRIENDS WERE **BORN**?







KALISTA...IT'S BEEN...THREE YEARS...MAY I... MAY I KISS YOU?

I WAS REALLY HOPING YOU MIGHT.



I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.

EVERY TIME I GO INTO THE WASTELAND. LIGHTING FIRES, LEAVING SIGNS.

YOU MEAN THOSE WEIRD GOLDEN THINGAMABOBS? HEH. YEAH, I THOUGHT MAYBE I WAS SUPPOSED TO **FUCK** MYSELF WITH IT. UNTIL IT STARTED SHOOTING SPARKS.

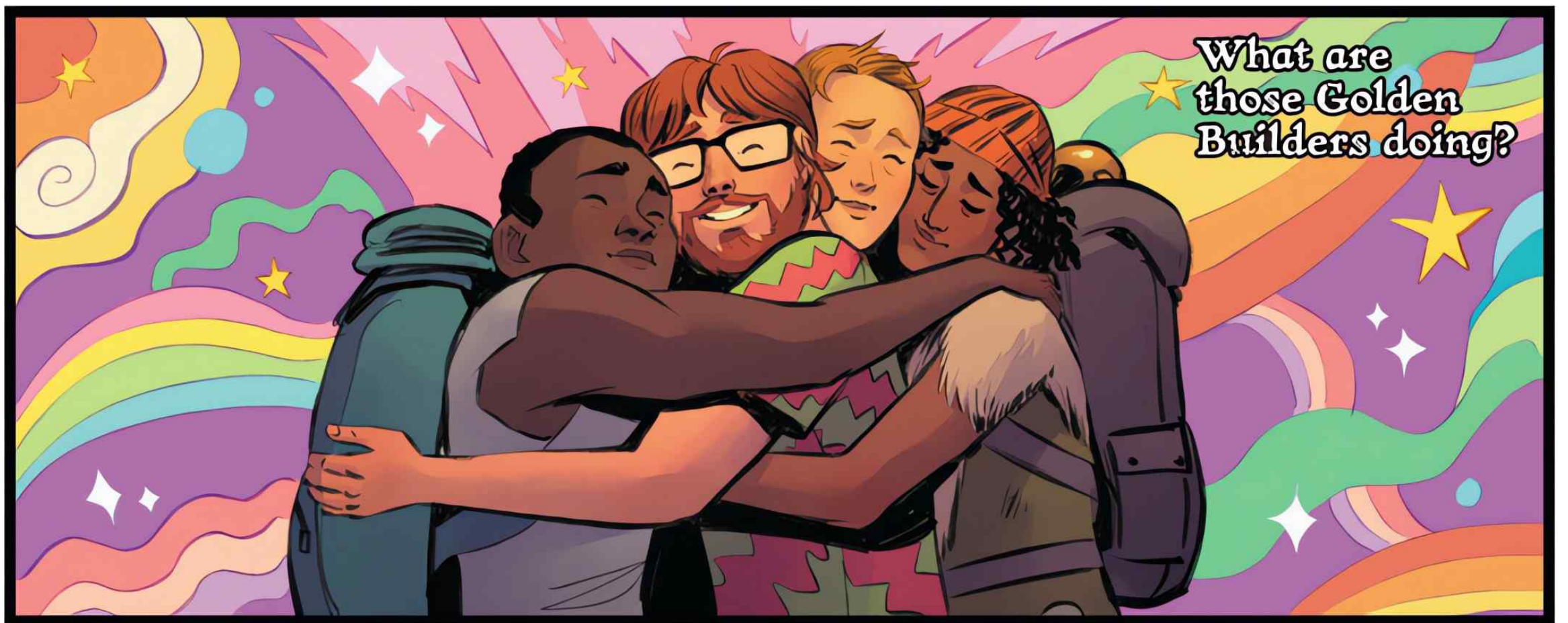
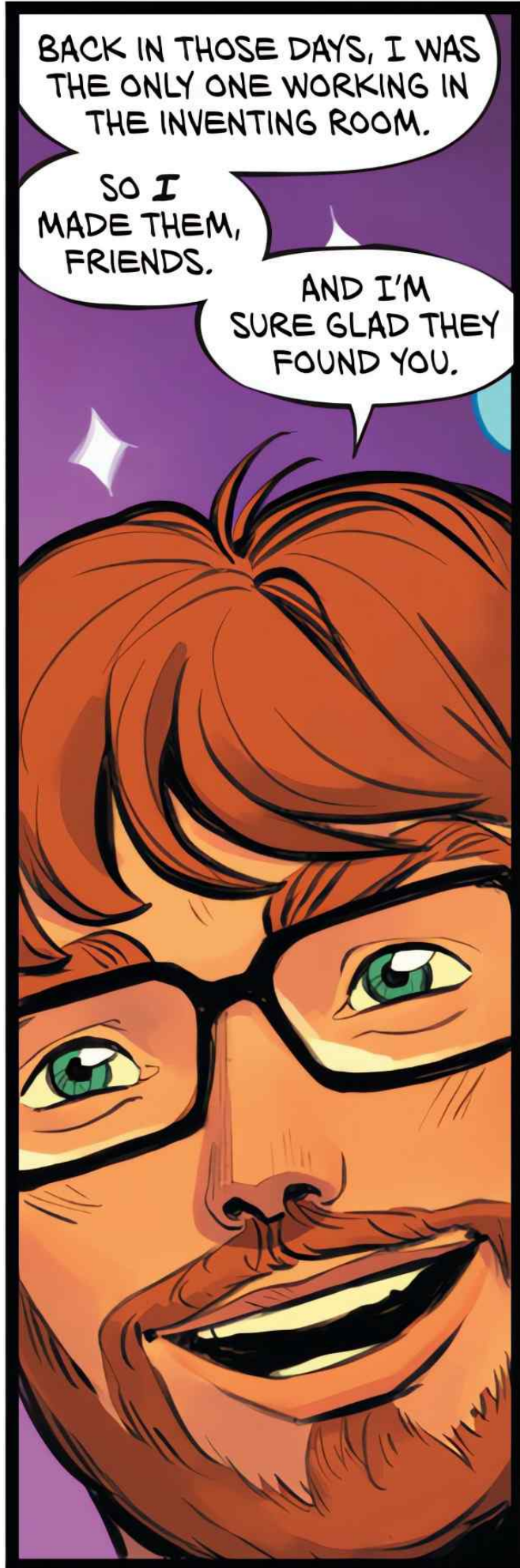


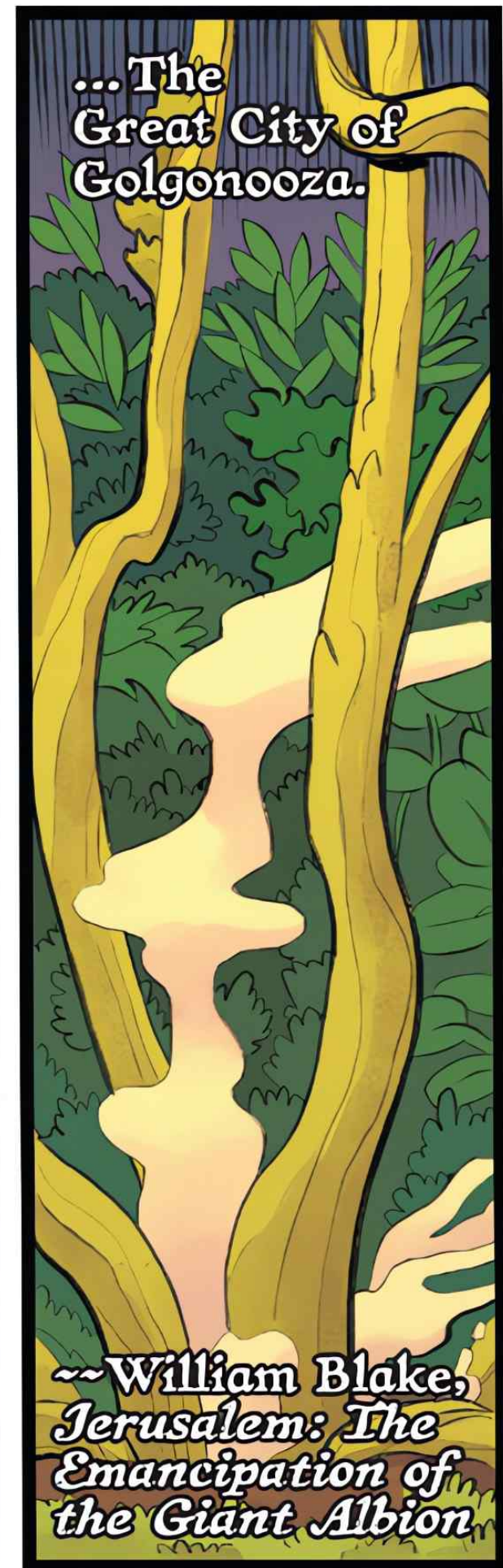
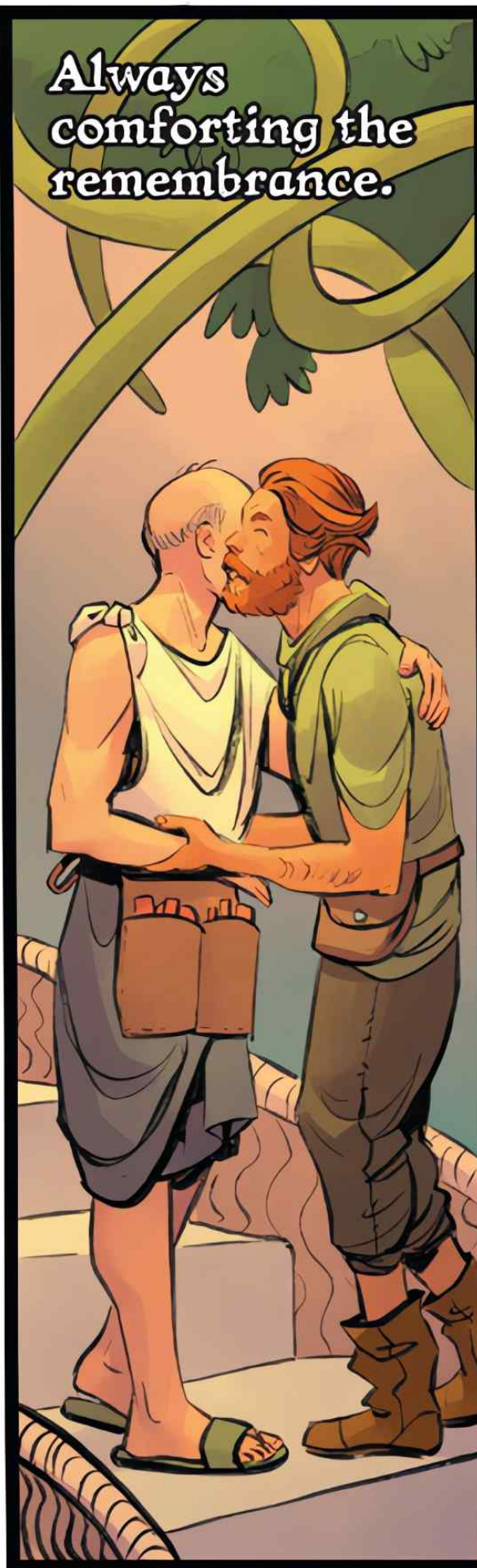
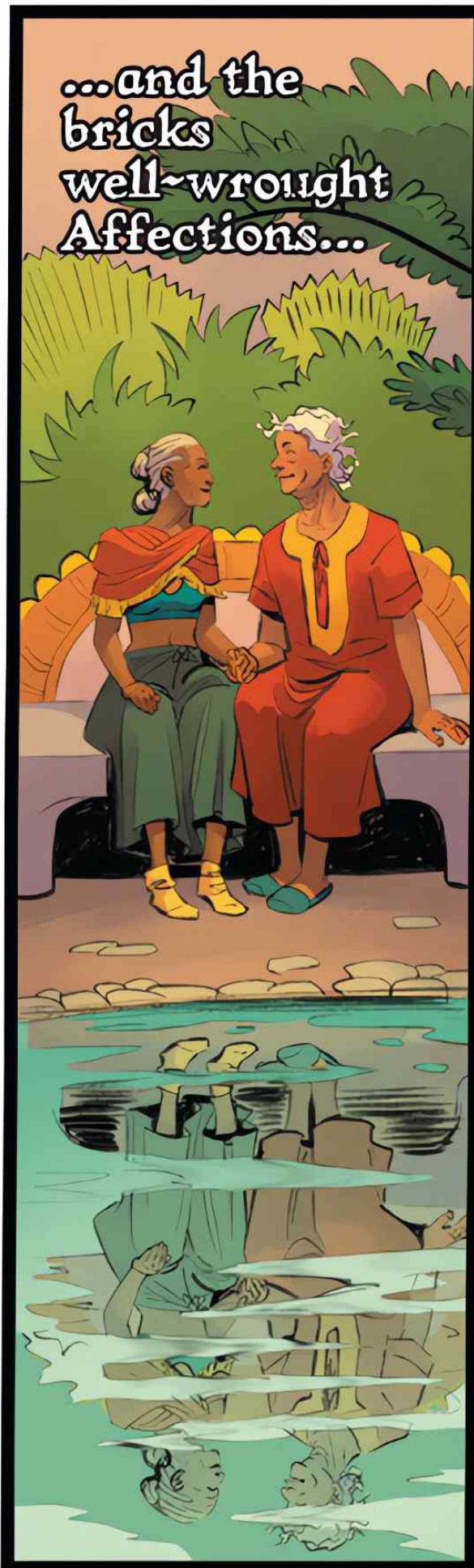
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU MADE IT HERE. YOU NEED TO SEE WHAT YOU HELPED BUILD.

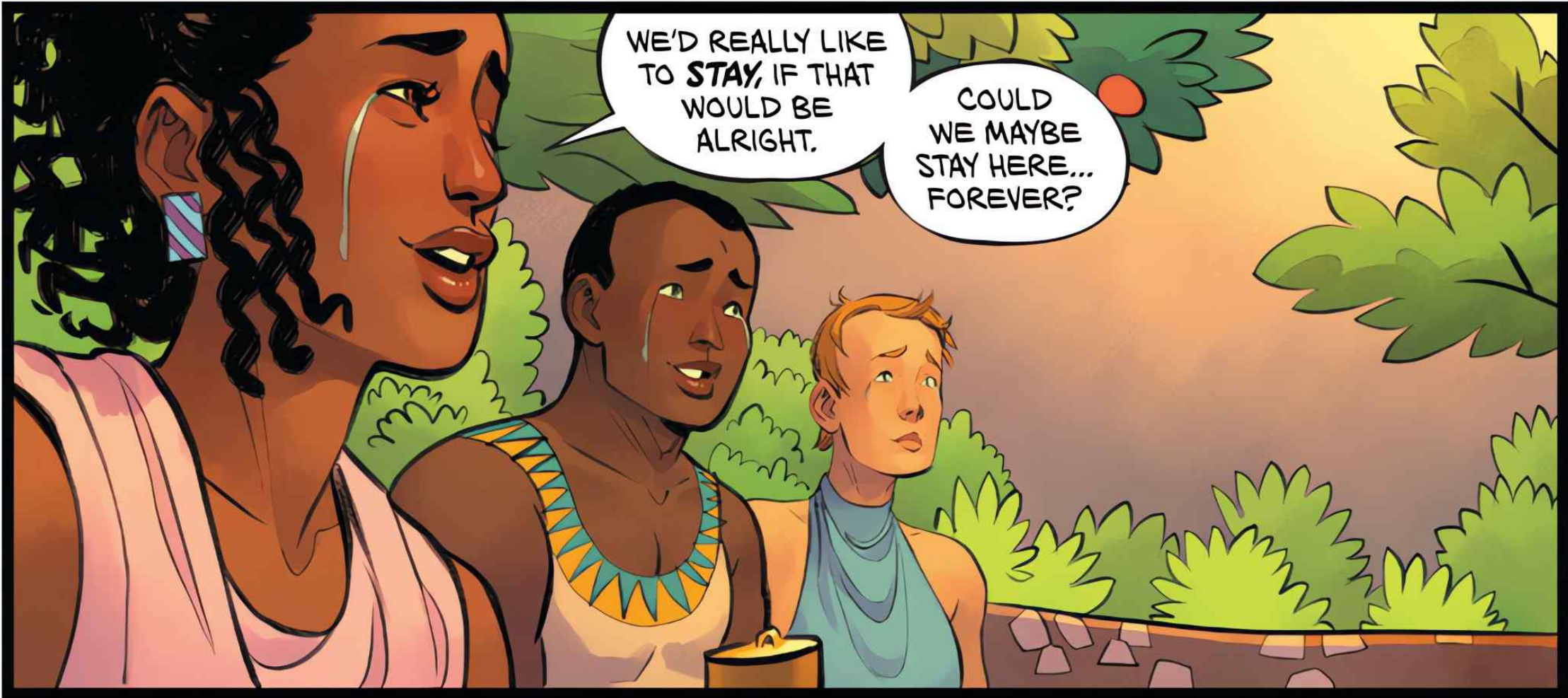
ME? HOW'D I DO THAT?

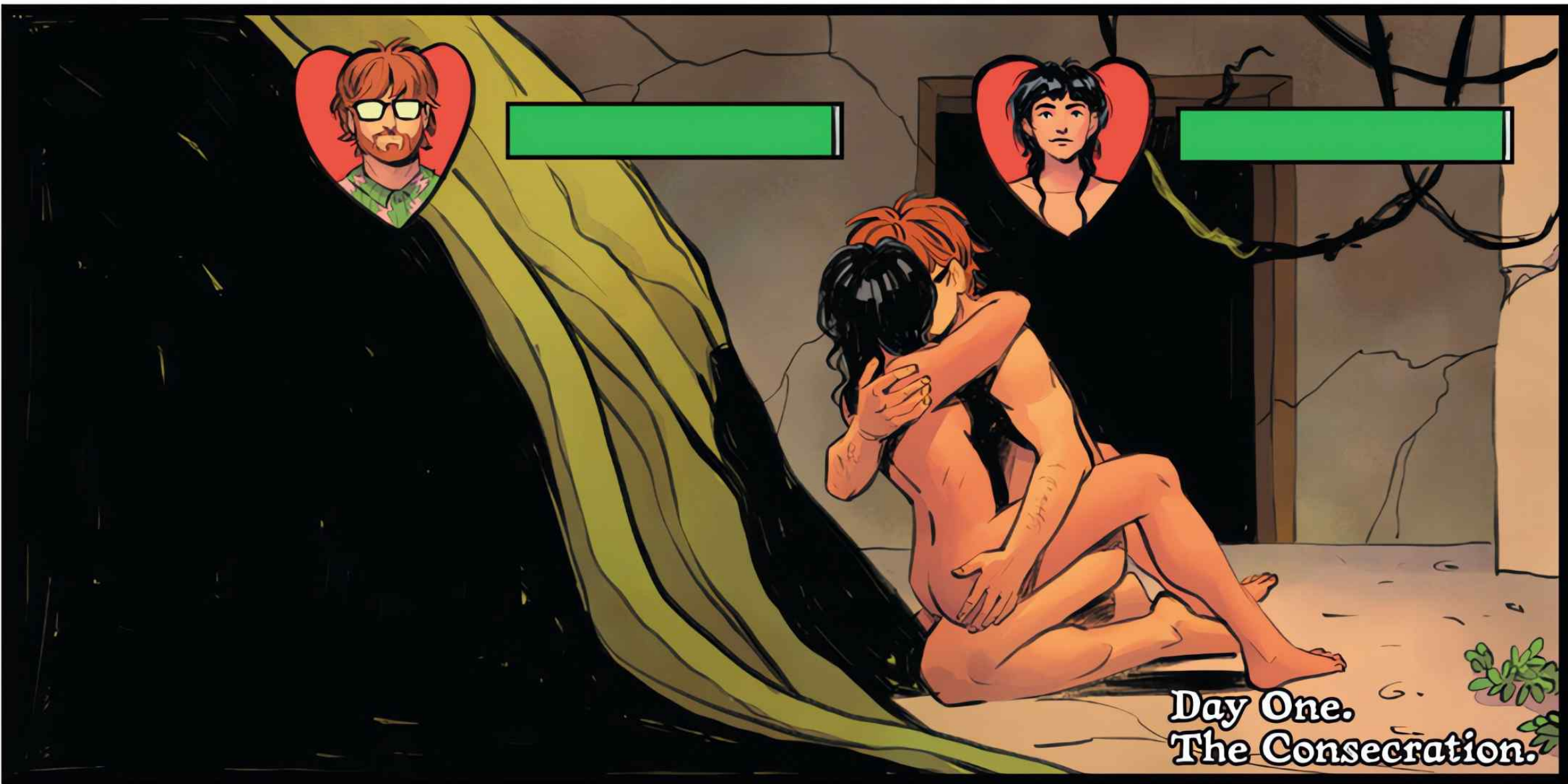
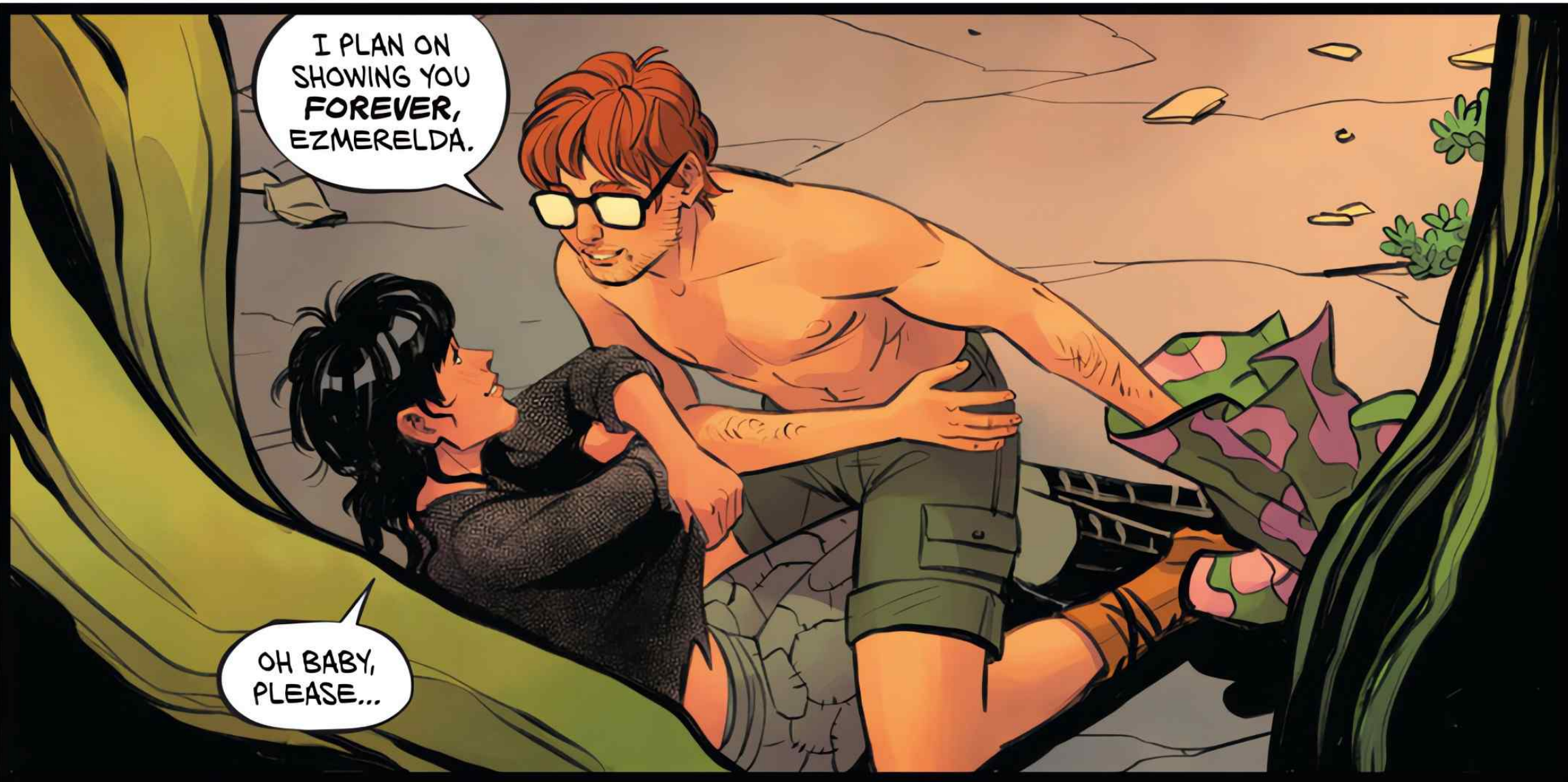
BY SHOWING ME THAT OUR CAPACITY FOR LOVE IS GREATER THAN WE GIVE IT CREDIT FOR.

GREATER THAN ANY WASTELAND.











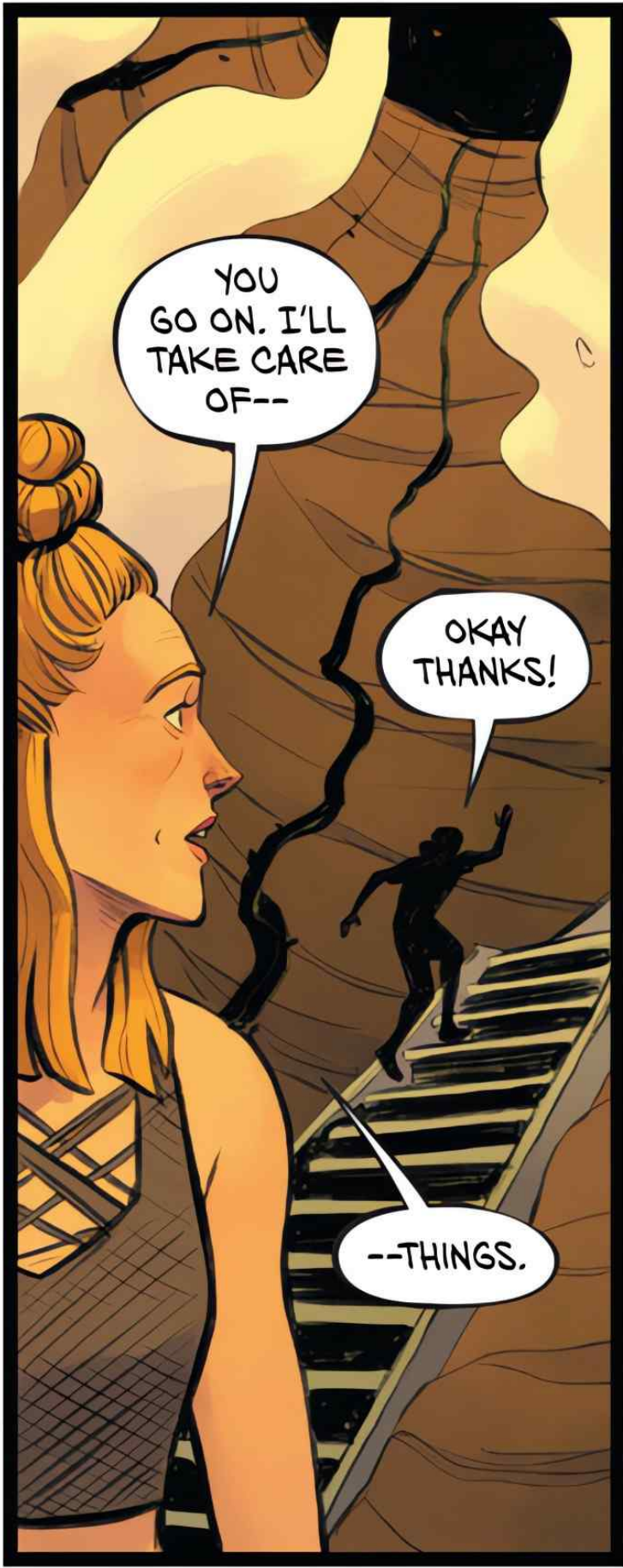


OH, YOU
KNOW, JUST
SAVING THE
WORLD.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS,
MEZZY.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS,
MACEO.

Day 1093.
Maceo and Mezzy's
Last Christmas.



THE EXPANSE CONTINUES AT BOOM! STUDIOS

Sometimes you get what you want, just not the way you expect.

I wanted more of *The Expanse*, and I wasn't alone. The TV show got me hooked from the start, and between episodes I devoured *Leviathan Wakes*, the first in James SA Corey's Hugo Award-winning novel series from which it was adapted. Waiting for the next season — and the next, and the next — always felt like a hard time. Fortunately I had the books, short stories and novellas to immerse myself in.

Created by James SA Corey — the pen-name of authors Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck — *The Expanse* weaves a vast and sprawling story with multiple viewpoint characters, as the human race struggles to colonise the vast gulf of our solar system. But of course, people are still people. Even 200 years in the future, we're still just apes who throw rocks. It's just that the rocks are bigger. A lot bigger. . .

That kind of scale might not seem to lend itself to the budgetary restraints of the small screen, but they pulled off a miracle — and they didn't dumb it down for TV! How often do we get to say that about award-winning science fiction. . .?

They say all good things must come to an end. . . but they're wrong. After three outstanding seasons, *The Expanse* was cancelled by the SYFY Channel, but fans of *The Expanse* mounted a passionate campaign to get it picked up by another studio — and it worked! Another miracle! We got three more excellent seasons via Amazon. *The Expanse* fans understand that real fans aren't gatekeepers, they're evangelists. We share the love.

While we waited in hope for more, I kept *The Expanse* alive by re-watching the show with my son, playing the RPG (terrible Belter accent and all) live on Twitch, and lining up at New York Comic Con to get my photo taken aboard the Rocinante. I was grateful for what we'd been given, but I still wanted more. . .

. . . Until, quite out of the blue, BOOM! Studios' Jon Moisan emailed to ask if I'd have any interest in writing a new comic series of *The Expanse*.

I swear, I jumped at the offer so fast, I should have been strapped into a crash couch.

Like I said, sometimes you get what you want, just not the way you expect. I wanted more of *The Expanse*. . . but I never even dared to dream I'd be writing it myself. Now it's real. It's happening. I'm writing these characters I know and love — Holden, Naomi, Amos, Bobbie, Clarissa, Avasarala, Drummer — and you'd better believe I'm grinning while I do it.

The Expanse: Dragon Tooth is a continuation of the TV show's storyline, set soon after the finale of season six. Our first issue is due out in April, and the Kickstarter for exclusive limited-edition collections is currently rocketing towards a million dollars in pledges. The fans pulled off another miracle, and the Rocinante is ready to roll again.

Get on board.

ANDY DIGGLE

WRITER, *THE EXPANSE: DRAGON TOOTH*



NEW GIVEAWAY!

THE ICONIC SCI-FI UNIVERSE OF THE EXPANSE
CONTINUES AT BOOM! STUDIOS!

To celebrate the upcoming launch of **THE EXPANSE: DRAGON TOOTH #1**, we're pulling some of our favorite EXPANSE stories out of the archive for an exclusive BOOM! Direct giveaway package. Scan the QR code for your chance to win and get ready for DRAGON TOOTH on April 5!

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!



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